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Soldier killed in security zone

By DAVID RUDGE

An IDF soldier was killed and three others wounded — two seriously — in a Hizbullah missile attack on an army convoy near the Beaufort Castle in the security zone yesterday afternoon.

Medic Hezi Avner, 20, of Alon Moreh, was killed when a missile scored a direct hit on the command car in which he and four other soldiers were travelling.

Three of the other soldiers, a tracker and two tankers, were wounded. They were evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Deputy hospital director Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai said two of the soldiers were in serious condition, both suffering from shrapnel wounds to their limbs. They both underwent surgery shortly after being admitted. Ben-Ishai said the third soldier was lightly wounded after being hit in the hand by shrapnel.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack. A statement issued on the organization's Nur radio station, broadcasting from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, said it had attacked "an enemy convoy" and inflicted damage and caused casualties.

OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine told reporters last night that a Hizbullah squad had fired two anti-tank missiles and mortars at the convoy. He said the missiles were probably of the Faggot type, an improved and more accurate version of the Sagger, which has improved armor-penetrating power and speed.

The two missiles, he said, were fired from a distance of 1,500 to 1,600 meters, and one of them hit the command car.

Levine said the Hizbullah squad probably consisted of two or three terrorists who fired and fled. He noted that troops in the convoy returned fire with support from other units, including some artillery. It was unlikely, however, that the attackers were hit.

Hizbullah has switched to using the Faggot missile more frequently in recent attacks, including the one at the end of last month in which a Merkava tank was hit. The radio operator was killed and the tank commander was badly wounded. They were both partly out of the tank at the time. The Faggot missile did not, however, pierce the pro-

PM: Accelerate final status



Palestinians stage a mock crucifixion to protest building at Har Homa yesterday, planting three huge wooden crosses opposite the hill. One Palestinian, wearing a crown of thorns, was tied to a cross with a sign bearing the word 'Jerusalem' hung around his neck. (Brian Heister)

Pledges Palestinians won't lose pullbacks if talks fail

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and MICHAL YUDELMAN

In a new diplomatic initiative, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is urging the Palestinians to accept an accelerated timetable for negotiating the final disposition of the territories, officials in Jerusalem said yesterday. The talks would hopefully be completed within six months, and no later than nine months.

Netanyahu said he would be willing to culminate the talks with US participation at a Camp David-style summit, thus welcoming the personal involvement of President Bill Clinton.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat last night rejected the proposal as coming too late.

His spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, said Arafat had received no official proposal, but if he had, it would not have been accepted.

"Nobody can guarantee these matters can be implemented. We don't have enough trust that matters can be completed," Abu Rudeineh said after speaking with Arafat. "We have a signed agreement and American and European letters of assurance. We don't have enough trust to change tracks now. Trust must be built up. We have none."

To regain trust, the PA requires as a minimum that the building on Har Homa be "postponed."

Abu Rudeineh indicated that had the proposal come before the redeployment and Har Homa decisions were taken, the response might have been different. But the PA fears that if it jumps off the Oslo track onto a Netanyahu "fast track," it will only find that the new track stops far short of the Palestinians' desired destination,

with no backup from the US.

Netanyahu's timetable is ambitious, since the issues are at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Jerusalem, borders, settlements, and refugees. In contrast, it took four months of intensive negotiations just to deal with a pullback from 80 percent of Hebron.

Under the Oslo Accords, final status talks are supposed to conclude in May 1999. They were supposed to resume this week, but have not due to Palestinian anger over Har Homa.

To preempt likely Palestinian suspicion that the initiative is a ruse to avoid the second and third redeployments during the interim period, Netanyahu included a stipulation that, if the two sides fail to reach agreement within the timetable, then both sides would return to the current interim agreement, and the second and third redeployments would occur as planned.

As it stands now, the second pullback is planned for this fall and the third by mid-1998. Earlier this month, in the first pullback, Israel agreed to yield 9.1 percent of the West Bank, but this has yet to be implemented, because the Palestinians said this is insufficient and unacceptable.

Netanyahu, who had consulted Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy, first raised the idea of accelerated final-status talks during his meeting with Jordan's King Hussein in Jerusalem on Sunday. He then briefed US Ambassador Martin Indyk about the idea.

Asked about Jordanian and US feedback, one Israeli official replied: "Let us just say they were very intrigued."

Netanyahu sought to raise the idea personally with Arafat at a Monday night summit, but the Palestinian leader refused to attend due to his anger over Har Homa. But it seems that Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan briefed Arafat on the idea during his visit to Gaza.

Since parts of the idea were misunderstood by the Palestinians and Netanyahu has no direct access to Arafat, cabinet secretary Danny Naveh went over this again verbally with top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

Israel is planning to brief Egypt about the proposal in the coming days.

There is no official written proposal, the official stressed, pointing to just two pages of a handwritten outline. He suggested the idea is being revealed now, because of Palestinian misunderstandings and because parts of the idea were to be broadcast on Channel 1. He sharply denied that the timing of the initiative is designed to deflect attention away from Har Homa.

The rationale for the proposal is a belief, the official said, that "instead of the interim period building confidence between us and the Palestinians as intended, it is eroding confidence. Therefore, there is a need to move towards final status now," since otherwise there could be two more years of tension.

"Having both interim negotiations and final status negotiations means double sets of talks. We should focus on the main thing, which is final status, and not the margins," he said.

Officials do not deny that the idea stems in no small measure

Continued on Page 2

Arafat to meet Mubarak over Har Homa

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and news agencies

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is to travel to Cairo today for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak over the Har Homa crisis, Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rdeineh said yesterday.

Mubarak yesterday blasted the start of construction at the Jerusalem hilltop site.

"If this settlement is built, this will not be the end of the whole thing. It will be the beginning of a new era of violence, which we would like to avoid," he said in Cairo.

and his deputy Mahmoud Abbas in Gaza yesterday, in an attempt to coordinate a meeting between Abbas and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Arafat rejected Netanyahu's claim that he was inciting the Palestinians to violent resistance. Arafat said he had given a clear message to Palestinians to avoid violence, to remain calm, and to follow his instructions, Moratinos said.

Moratinos told the BBC last night no decision on the Middle East peace process is irreversible. "We have to persuade both Israelis and Palestinians to take care of the peace process," he said.

Swedish foreign minister Sten Andersson in Gaza and said on Swedish television that "Israeli tanks are surrounding our cities ready to invade."

After today's Cairo visit, Arafat is to fly to Islamabad to address an Islamic conference, and four days later fly to Morocco to address the Jerusalem Committee headed by King Hassan, his political aides said yesterday.

The start of construction Tuesday



also brought strong criticism from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Bahrain. In Amman, the Moslem militant Hamas group urged suicide attacks against Israel. "The resistance should start with hurling stones against Israeli soldiers and end with using bullets and martyr attacks," Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh told The Associated Press.

Two Syrian-based radical Palestinian groups — the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine — called for renewing the intifada.

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

Labor split over unity gov't

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday that his proposal to accelerate final status talks with the Palestinians is not related to a national unity government.

Israel Radio reported last night that Netanyahu said the government needs broad support for this move, but not a change in its composition.

MK Ehud Barak (Labor), meanwhile, came out strongly against joining a national unity government. Barak, who officially launched his campaign for the party leadership yesterday, told a press conference in Tel Aviv that he would refuse to join a unity government regardless of what position he is offered.

"We will not join this rotten government of disgrace and failure," he said. "It simply must be toppled. That is a basic political requirement. Labor would be making a cardinal error if it joins such a government, now or in the future. It must serve the public in the opposition ... If it fades away into cabinet chairs, honest citizens will ask themselves who is the real opposition to this government? They will look right and left and go with whoever they see there."

Barak's statement followed reports that party chairman Shimon Peres is organizing MKs to support a unity government, on the assumption that Prime Minister Netanyahu will propose such a move if he emerges unscathed from the Bar-On affair.

Peres, who discussed the possibility with a group of Labor MKs this week, gave them the impression that Netanyahu has already made up his mind to form a unity government and that Peres would get the defense portfolio.

But Netanyahu said yesterday he has made no decision concerning a unity government.

Peres yesterday denied reports of his "galloping" toward a unity government and said no such offer has been made. He stressed, however, that he is deeply worried over the deterioration of the peace process.

"We must do everything which can contribute to the peace process," he said. "If we are asked to join the government on the basis of the peace process, if Labor can do anything to prevent Netanyahu from ruining the peace process, we should do so."

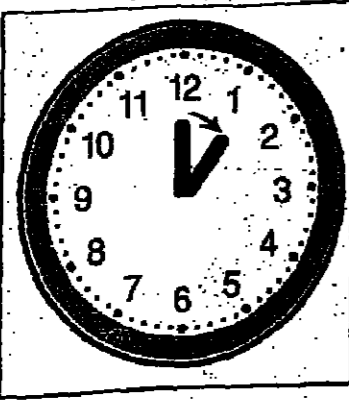
He also denied telling MKs that

he was offered the defense portfolio, or that if Netanyahu survives the Bar-On affair and this year, he would win the next elections, as Channel 1 reported on Tuesday.

Peres emphasized that at any rate, until the Bar-On investigation is completed, the option of a unity government cannot be debated.

MK Yossi Beilin, who is also running for Labor's leadership, joined Barak in objecting to a unity government, but MK Efraim Sneh, another candidate, came out in support of the idea.

Turn clocks ahead



Daylight saving time goes into effect tonight at midnight. Clocks should be put forward one hour. Daylight saving time will last 177 days, until September 13.

High Court rejects petitions, Page 2

Speaking to reporters after meeting with Belgian Foreign Minister Erik Derycke, Mubarak accused Israel of pursuing policies based on the "arrogance of power." He said the crisis over the 6,500-apartment project is the gravest to face the Middle East peace process since his predecessor Anwar Sadat made his historic trip to Israel in 1977.

"What is happening now is very dangerous," said Mubarak. "I feel the consequences may be terrible and may hurt all of us and lead to instability in this area."

Meanwhile, European Union envoy to the Middle East Miguel Angel Moratinos met with Arafat



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High Court rejects petitions against building

By ELLI WOHLGELER and JON IMMANUEL

The High Court of Justice, as expected, yesterday rejected two petitions for a halt to construction on Har Homa, as earth-moving machinery continued to excavate the Jerusalem hilltop site.

At Har Homa, security forces were still out in force to prevent disturbances, but there was not even a hint of trouble, as workmen went about their jobs in relative obscurity after Tuesday's media blitz at the site.

In nearby Beit Sahur, Palestinian demonstrators marched in protest and staged a mock crucifixion by tying a Palestinian, wearing a crown of thorns, to a cross, with a sign around his neck bearing the word "Jerusalem."



negotiation, only dictation. I don't believe we can swallow what the Israeli government is asking us to swallow. Once again we are facing an explosion, when it will start and where, I don't know," the PA's Jerusalem representative said.

Ramallah youths apparently supporting Hamas and shouting "Netanyahu is a degenerate" tried to approach the checkpoints, but were kept away by Fatah youths.

Homa. The Popular and Democratic Fronts have called for renewal of the intifada. Arafat has called publicly for non-violent protest, but has been accused by Israel of secretly giving a "green light" for renewed violent attacks.

The security forces have received warnings of impending terror attacks "of all kinds, including the possibility of suicide bombers and in all areas," said Hefetz. "The Border Police and other forces are on alert in all sensitive areas and along the Green Line," he added.

NEWS

in brief

Prisoners riot at Megiddo, Nafa

Four soldiers and nine Palestinian security prisoners suffered from smoke inhalation during riots at the Megiddo jail near Afula last night. Prisoners set fire to tents and mattresses. There were also disturbances among security prisoners at the Nafa jail near Beersheba, although no injuries were reported there.

Bus-security unit to be disbanded

The Counterterrorism Command decided last week to disband the bus-security unit, despite security evaluations that buses are still a main target for terror attacks, Channel 2 reported last night. The command decided to transfer responsibility for bus security to the police, the report said.

Lederman guilty of pouring tea on Dayan

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Judge Yoram Noam convicted Yisrael Lederman yesterday of assaulting Labor MK Yael Dayan on October 22 in Hebron. Lederman, a Jerusalem tour guide known to be affiliated with the extremist Kach group, was found guilty of flinging a cup of hot tea on Dayan, causing second-degree burns to her neck and chest.

US deputy defense secretary arrives

US Deputy Secretary of Defense John P. White arrived in Israel yesterday on a two-day visit as guest of the Defense Ministry. He will meet with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, ministry Director-General Ilan Biran, Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnai, and other defense officials.

Psychiatrists declare labor dispute

The Israel Psychiatry Association has asked the Israel Medical Association to declare a labor dispute over the government's failure to transfer responsibility for mental health care from the state to the health funds. Association chairman Prof. Shmuel Tyano said that the labor dispute could result in a full-scale strike by all the country's psychiatrists.

Romanian president to smooth adoptions

Romanian President Victor Ciorbea yesterday promised Health Minister Yehoshua Matza that he would expedite the bureaucratic processes that are holding up the adoption of 29 Romanian children by Israelis. Matza, currently on a visit to Bucharest, was asked by the prospective parents to iron out the problems.

Kill Bagail barred from selling cheese

The Health Ministry yesterday (Wednesday) has barred the Kill Bagail dairy in western Galilee from manufacturing or selling cheese. Inspectors found that its products were being produced without a temperature gauge in the pasteurizing machine, and disorder in the production room.



A soldier throws a rock back at Palestinians during clashes in Beit Omar, near Hebron, yesterday.

Hanegbi not sorry for attack on Arafat

By LIAT COLLINS

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi told the Knesset plenum he is not sorry for saying that if Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat does not stop threatening to use terror, he will find himself wandering again between Damascus and Tunis.

Security Council to hold 'informal consultations' on Har Homa

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Two weeks after the US vetoed a resolution that would have castigated Israel over Har Homa, the UN Security Council is expected to hold "informal consultations" today on the Jerusalem project, sources said.

er to the UN Nasser, Kidwa said in a letter to Zbigniew Wiggoswicz, of Poland, who is president of the council this month.

on Israel to reverse its decision to build on Har Homa. The assembly's resolutions are not binding, but the range of the resolution's sponsors indicated the serious degree of opposition to the Har Homa plan.

World Union for Progressive Judaism expresses condolences to Ayala and the family of SHNEUR ZALMAN ABRAMOV courageous leader for justice, civil liberties and pluralism זכר צדיק לברכה

We mourn the passing of our beloved brother SOLOMON SITTNER His coffin will arrive on El Al flight 014, and the funeral will take place today, Thursday, at 11 a.m., at the new funeral home (Beit Hahesped) opposite Herzog-Ezrat Nashim Hospital.

SOLDIER

tective armor of the tank. Levine said the IDF is constantly assessing the changing threats in Lebanon and altering its preparedness accordingly. Nevertheless, there is always a danger of attacks.

PM

from Netanyahu's coalition problems. There were threats from 17 right-wing MKs to leave the coalition at the time of the first pullback, and there are doubts if Netanyahu can hold the coalition together for the second pullback.

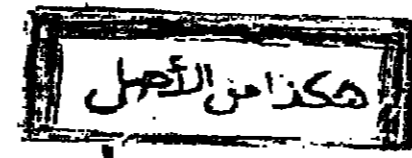
ARRIVALS

Mr. Mel Pearson, Regional Group Manager of Lloyd's Register, London.

Another reason why CommStock is the fastest-growing brokerage firm in Israel: We've just welcomed our second staff baby this week! Mazal Tov to Nomi and Yisrael Kellerman, on the birth of their son.

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Jordan, Israel differ over Naharayim evacuation

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and LIAT COLLINS



Yaffa Shukrun, the teacher seriously wounded when she was shot in the chest by a Jordanian soldier in Naharayim last Thursday, poses for the camera shortly before being released from Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem yesterday. One of her pupils at Beit Shemesh's AMIT-Fuerst School, Maya Shmuel, remains hospitalized. The two were visited by Jordan's King Hussein on Sunday, when he paid his condolence calls to victims of the shooting. (Brian Hovell)

There is no agreement between Israel and Jordan over the evacuation of wounded from Naharayim, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told the Knesset plenum yesterday in answer to several motions to the agenda over the murder of seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls last Thursday. He also said the police were not aware of the Education Ministry policy not to allow schoolchildren to visit Naharayim.

"The answer to the question [of] why the Jordanians did not allow us to evacuate the wounded girls after the shooting attack is that the discussions between Jordan and Israel on evacuation arrangements have not yet been concluded and the matter has not been closed between the two countries," Kahalani said.

Kahalani said that three months ago, Education Ministry officials had told local police not to allow children to visit the site and had been told to coordinate the request with National Police Headquarters, but the headquarters had received no such demand from the ministry. He said the school could not be blamed for taking the children to the site, because all the permits it had received were in

order. Education Ministry officials and representatives of Beit Shemesh and its AMIT-Fuerst School engaged in a round of "dueling documents" yesterday at a Knesset Education Committee session on last Thursday's tragedy at Naharayim.

At the end of the meeting, the committee decided that the ministry had "not done everything to make sure its guidelines were followed."

Committee chairman MK Emanuel Zissman was forced to intervene on several occasions to restore order in the stormy session, in which Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled and Shlomo Zudkevich, in charge of security and safety for the ministry, produced documents showing that schools had been properly informed that visits to the Jordanian-controlled sector of the Naharayim complex were forbidden.

Meanwhile, Beit Shemesh Deputy Mayor Eli Ben-Lulu and the director-general of the Amit Schools, Ami Ze'evi, produced documents of their own they claimed showed that the ministry encouraged such visits, and which never made clear they were forbidden.

The controversy focused on a circular issued by Peled's office on October 22, 1996,

noting the importance of visiting the site and the old Rutenberg electricity plant there as part of celebrations marking 100 years of Zionism and the school system's Industry Year. However, the document clearly states that the ministry was still working at that time "to finalize the necessary arrangements to permit delegations of pupils to visit the site, without delay."

Doron Cohen of the Beit She'an police said that police at the site had not received anything in writing saying they should stop groups of pupils from visiting on the island. Ben-Lulu said: "All the arrows are being aimed at the school," instead of at the terrorist. Noting that parents with children regularly visit the site as private individuals, he asked: "Are there two different standards for children and for schoolchildren?"

At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee wrote that the ministry should have had the IDF and the police prevent visits to the site, and should have "filled the gaps" regarding the guidelines if there were any. It also recommended that the Pressler Commission - which visited Naharayim yesterday and received a briefing from army and police representatives there - include a representative of the National Parents Association.

Easy Hebrew radio broadcasts axed

MK Weinberg fights for IBA News

By HELEN KAYE and LIAT COLLINS

As of April 6 there will be no more radio news broadcasts in easy Hebrew for new immigrants. Instead of the three daily news bulletins, there will be a single 10 a.m. news broadcast in regular Hebrew on Reka, the immigration and absorption channel. A senior editor, one of the seven reassigned, said that "we got a letter from [radio head] Amnon Nadav which characterized these broadcasts as archaic and unnecessary. This not only cuts the immigrant population off from what's going on, it also jeopardizes their security. They can't call someone up to ask what's going on in an emergency."

He further maintained that the newest cut is part of the Israel Broadcasting Authority's drive toward commercialism and said that Nadav had personally told him "anything that doesn't make money must go."

The workers committee said

that not only does the IBA charter call for helping immigrant absorption, but that the editors' reassignment consists of answering phone calls and doing other clerical work. It said this "constitutes a deterioration of working conditions."

In response, radio spokeswoman Carmela Israeli said that the easy Hebrew division "was mostly propaganda which is no longer IBA policy. The decision to cut the service was made last year, but the unit was given a grace period to adapt."

Israeli said that an effort would be made to deliver the news in simple Hebrew.

Meanwhile, MK Tzvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'Aliya) has joined the struggle to save the IBA News in English on Israel Television. Weinberg this week wrote to Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, who is responsible for the IBA, asking that the English-language news and Today, a Russian-language current affairs program broadcast on Channel 3, be allowed to continue.

Bar-Ilan widens opportunities for public activity on campus

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Bar-Ilan University yesterday instituted a new code of conduct for public activity on campus. A university spokesman called it a "significant liberalization" of policy regarding students' organizing and conducting political activity.

The new code, devised by a committee headed by Dean of Students Prof. Ella Belfer, strips the Students Association of sole control of organizing public debates on campus.

University spokesman David Weinberg said this was in response to complaints the association had "not fully represented" the entire range of political views. Blatantly political activity, such as trying to recruit new members for political parties or campaigning, is still forbidden.

The code also appears to contradict the recommendations of the Harish Commission appointed to investigate the situation at the university after Bar-Ilan student Yigal Amir assassinated prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. The commission had recommended tightening the existing blanket ban on political activity on campus, Weinberg said.

However, Belfer said the new code was approved because "we said that it was a mistake to have a blanket ban on such activity. We have to play the game of political culture and have faith in it."

The union will still play a major role in organizing such activity, she said, and is not under attack. Representatives of the student body were unavailable for comment.

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That pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Securities Regulations (Purchase Offer), 5754-1994 the Offeror submitted, on 20.3.1997 to the Securities Authority, the Companies Registrar, the Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange Ltd. (hereinafter: "TASE") and to Leumi Insurance Holdings Ltd. (hereinafter: "the Company"), an amendment to the Specification dated 12.3.1997, to the Acquisition Offer addressed to all holders of Ordinary Shares of NIS 0.01 n.v. each of the Company, for the purchase from them of up to 317,124,199 in the Company (hereinafter: "the Specification").

There is no change in the dates and time periods set out in the Specification. Copies of the full text of the amendment to the Specification may be obtained at bank branches, from TASE members and from the Offer Coordinator, Bank Leumi (Leisrael) B.M., 2 Liffenblum St., Tel-Aviv.

The full Hebrew text of the Specification and the amendment thereto are the binding text.

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WORLD

in brief

Turkish troops kill 30 Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) - Turkish troops, backed by fighter jets, killed 30 Kurdish rebels in the mountainous areas of the southeast, officials said yesterday. Twenty-five of the rebels died in air raids carried out on rebel mountain hideouts in Sirirt province, the regional governor's office said. Five others were killed in land offensives in Batman province. The governor's office did not say when the offensives took place, but the latest casualties have increased the rebel losses in fighting since the beginning of the month to 102.

German woman charged in Nazi camp deaths

ERFURT, Germany (AP) - An alleged former guard at a Nazi concentration camp for women has been charged with trampling to death a young inmate in 1945, court officials said yesterday. Prosecutors say the woman, now 79, beat the girl with a club when she resisted being separated from her mother at the Malchow camp, part of the Ravensbrück concentration camp complex. When the girl fell to the ground, witnesses said the accused stomped on her with boots until the intestines spilled out and she died, prosecutors said. The woman is being charged with murder, the state court in Meiningen said. No trial date has been set. The woman was fingered by witnesses of the incident living in the United States and Belgium, a court statement said.

Over 400 Mexican law-enforcers on drugs

MEXICO CITY - New mandatory drug tests for Mexico's federal law-enforcement agencies turned up 424 police, prosecutors and administrative personnel who tested positive - nearly half of them for cocaine use - during the past six weeks, the attorney general's office said yesterday. Announcing the results of tests that are among the latest efforts by Mexico to purge corruption and drug abuse from federal agencies, prosecutors said disciplinary action has been taken against all of the public servants who tested positive. According to the results, 204 people tested positive for using cocaine and the rest showed signs of using amphetamines, marijuana or other drugs. Los Angeles Times

LA policeman kills another in freeway spat

LOS ANGELES - One Los Angeles police officer shot another to death in an armed car-to-car confrontation after the two men - both in plainclothes - got into a shouting match in traffic on a busy boulevard, authorities said. Los Angeles Police Chief Willie L. Williams said it appeared the two men didn't recognize each other as police. The slain officer was off-duty when the shooting occurred, and although the undercover detective who shot him was on-duty, he was riding alone in an unmarked car. "We don't know what occurred," said Williams, who said there was nothing to indicate the two policemen had ever met, and he refuted speculation that the shooting resulted from a narcotics investigation gone wrong. Los Angeles Times

Russian offers guests vodka with a bite

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) - A man pleaded guilty to killing three of his drinking partners and eating their internal organs, a newspaper reported yesterday. Ilyshat Kuzikov, 37, was found criminally insane and sent to a maximum-security psychiatric hospital. According to police, Kuzikov brought acquaintances to his apartment to drink shots of vodka, and then killed them and ate their body parts. In a search of his apartment, police found the dismembered bodies of the victims, a jar with marinated human flesh and a bucket with boiled human organs. Kuzikov pleaded guilty, saying he killed the men because he needed the food. He said he couldn't buy enough to eat on his 120,000-ruble (NIS 60) monthly disability pension.

Hussein fires Kabariti New Prime Minister Majali negotiated Israel peace treaty

AMMAN - King Hussein sacked his prime minister yesterday and appointed longtime friend and Mideast peace campaigner Abdel-Salam Majali to form a new cabinet. Jordan Television said Hussein accepted Abdel-Karim Kabariti's resignation during a half-hour meeting at the royal palace. The outgoing 30-member cabinet also attended. In his letter of appointment, Hussein told Majali that the top foreign policy priority is commitment to the Middle East peace process and support for Palestinian calls for statehood. "The first [point] is our commitment to the peace process and our concern to support it to enable it to

overcome all the obstacles that it is exposed to," the king told Majali in the letter, published by the official Petra news agency. "And in this context I affirm the continuation of our support to our Palestinian brothers until they attain their rights and set up their state on their land," the king said. Majali's principal job was to prepare Jordan for parliamentary elections, due to be held in November, Hussein added. Majali, 71, is a former army general who served as prime minister between May 1993 and January 1995. He negotiated - and later signed - Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel. Palace officials said they expected few changes in key portfolios - a strong indication that the cabinet shakeup will

not have much effect on Jordan's foreign policy or its commitment to peace with Israel. Government officials said that Kabariti, 47, who also served as defense minister, was seen as mishandling the crisis that arose over the killing of seven Israeli schoolgirls by a Jordanian soldier along the border last week. The officials said Kabariti arrived late at Naharayim and then bitterly attacked Binyamin Netanyahu on the phone for blaming the shooting on a harsh letter sent by King Hussein to the Israeli premier. In a harsh letter to Kabariti, carried by Petra, Hussein blamed the outgoing premier for blatant bureaucracy and red tape and lack of reforms in the state's structure.

"The experiences and the suffering of the hard days passed has taken a lot from you ... and made you exhausted to the extent that you abandoned primary issues that I had chosen you to handle, such as restructuring the state's system," Hussein said. He specifically referred to more than 100 orphans, whom Hussein moved to one of his palaces earlier this month after he found them suffering from inadequate services and care. Hussein said that Kabariti's response that he was more touched by the weeping of his social affairs minister than the situation of the orphans themselves had "startled" him. "May God forgive you," Hussein added in an unusual criticism of an outgoing

prime minister. The cabinet shuffle came as a surprise, because officials expected that Kabariti, who is also a member of parliament, would head a transitional government in May to prepare for elections expected next November. Kabariti admitted he didn't expect the change. "Events, changes and developments whether locally or regionally always surprise us," he said after chairing his last cabinet meeting earlier in the day. One change will involve the foreign affairs portfolio, which Kabariti held in the previous government. Fayed Tarawneh, a leading member of the team that negotiated the 1994 treaty, will handle foreign affairs in the new government.

Tutu prostate cancer worsens

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) - Retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu said yesterday his cancer had likely spread beyond the prostate gland and he would undergo hormone treatment and radiation therapy to treat it. Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his anti-apartheid efforts, said he would undergo hormone treatments for three months, then go to the United States for two months of radiation therapy.

Despite the rigors of such treatment, Tutu said he intended to maintain a normal schedule and would set up an office in the United States to keep working as chairman of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. "I had been inclined before my recent visit to the United States to choose the option of surgery, which seemed to me to give the best chance of removing completely the cancer," Tutu said in a statement issued by the Truth Commission. "However I have now been advised that the cancer is suspected to have penetrated beyond the prostate gland and that as a result radiotherapy is the best option." Tutu, 65, said while he planned to keep to what he called a "normal" schedule, he would be "unable to continue squeezing additional commitments into the schedule."



Papua patrol An armed policeman patrols the streets of the Papua New Guinea town of Port Moresby yesterday, after an anti-government demonstration turned violent. Crowds rampaged through the town, smashing windows and firing automatic weapons, though no one was hurt. (AP)

US, Russia begin tough summit

HELSINKI (Reuters) - The United States and Russia prepared for their chilliest summit since the end of the Cold War yesterday, with hopes fading of a breakthrough in the row over NATO enlargement as both sides stuck to a tough line. A senior Russian official said Moscow would not drop its bitter opposition to NATO's enlargement plans, after US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright vowed the alliance would not be dented from taking in former Soviet bloc states. Seen as the most difficult chal-

lenge for European security in the 21st century, NATO enlargement tops the agenda for the meeting today and tomorrow between Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin. Even though an agreement on NATO enlargement seems unlikely in Helsinki, Russian and US officials suggest there could be progress in other areas, including arms control and economic issues that are of profound concern to Moscow. Yeltsin's decisive shift towards young reformers in this week's cabinet reshuffle, well-timed for

the summit, has won lavish praise from Washington and could open the way for more Western help. Both sides have staked out their positions on NATO, in a sometimes confusing game of diplomatic poker which mixes the usual tough bargaining with hints of possible compromise. Moscow says enlargement will isolate Russia, although Yeltsin does not want a return to Cold War-style tensions. At a Madrid summit in July, the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization will invite some former Soviet bloc states to start

membership talks, probably Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The aim is that they will join in 1999. "Russia's approach to NATO expansion will not change regardless of any summits, bilateral meetings and negotiations," Yeltsin's spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, told reporters in the Finnish capital. But he also expressed cautious optimism about the summit, saying it offered the chance to "lay down an outline for Russian-American partnership in the 21st century."

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense. Our thanks to the Ofer Publishing Company. This week, the LIBI Fund held a ceremony to express its appreciation to the Ofer Publishing Company for its very generous contribution of books to the IDF. The books were distributed to libraries at Education Corps bases where new immigrants are taught Hebrew and disadvantaged soldiers are provided with a basic education and courses in good citizenship - all with the support of the Libi Fund.

LIBI, 17 Rehov Ariana, Tel Aviv 61070, Tel. 03-696-8206, 03-697-5183, 03-669-5610; Fax. 03-697-6743. In the picture (from right to left): Mr. Shlomo Ofer and his son; Lt.-Col. Sheri Rebbibo of the Education Corps; Col. Meir Blayer, Commander of the Libi Fund; and Lt. Michal of the Libi Fund.

Complete Guide to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee by Yitzhak and Phyllis Shalem. A most comprehensive guide in English to sites around the Kinneret, for hikers and drivers. Presents historical facts and detailed touring information in an exceptionally clear manner - lightweight, perfect for your pack. Softcover, 82 pp. JP Price NIS 20.00. To: Books, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 91, Jerusalem 91000 - Tel. 02-3241222. Please send me Guide to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee. Enclosed is my check for NIS 20.00, payable to The Jerusalem Post. Credit card orders accepted by phone. For overseas airmail delivery add NIS 12.00.

An Announcement to Tnuva Customers. A possible flaw was discovered in a number of products from Tnuva Dairy in Haifa. Tnuva has removed the affected batch of products from all stores. Tnuva products currently found in stores do not belong to the affected batch. Affected products include those packaged in round plastic cups only, from the Haifa Dairy. Customers with the following Tnuva products at home are kindly requested to return them to the stores for replacement: Gil 3% - round cups, 200ml. from the Haifa Dairy, use-by-date 2.9.97, in northern Israel only. Sour Cream, 15% - round cups, 200ml. from the Haifa Dairy, use-by-date 2.9.97, in northern Israel only. Eshel, 4.5% - round cups, 200ml. from the Haifa Dairy, use-by-date 2.9.97, in northern Israel only. Tnuva "flower" fruit Yogurt 4.5% - round cups, 200ml. from the Haifa Dairy, use-by-date 4.4.97, in northern Israel only. White Shelly - round cups, 200ml. from the Haifa Dairy, use-by-date 10.4.97. For more information and consumer inquiries, you are invited to call the Tnuva Customer service - The Milk Line - 177-022-6244 operating daily between 8:00am and midnight, until one hour before sundown on Friday, and two hours after sundown on Saturday. Tnuva apologizes for any inconvenience caused to its customers.

Afghan blast kills over 40. KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - At least 40 people were killed and scores wounded yesterday in a huge explosion at an ammunition dump near the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, foreign aid workers reported. At least 81 people were rushed to the Jalalabad hospital and the number of dead was likely to rise, said Red Cross officials who spoke on condition they were not further identified. In Peshawar, Pakistan, border officials said 50 people were killed in the morning explosion in Jalalabad, about 75 kilometers from the border on the main highway from Pakistan to Kabul, the Afghan capital. There was no official word on whether the explosion was accidental or sabotage, but there have been several previous incidents when depots were carelessly ignited. The explosion destroyed hundreds of homes near the ammunition depot which was inside a police compound, said the border officials who also spoke on condition of anonymity. The compound was in a residential area about 10 kilometers west of the city. Access to the area is restricted because of the large number of security installations nearby. Chemical spill threat to Baton Rouge. BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (AP) - Divers searched a capsized barge in the flood-swollen, fast-moving Mississippi River yesterday for the source of leaking toxic gas that forced the evacuation of hundreds of people. The stranded barge was among a string of 25 that struck the US 190 bridge over the Mississippi and broke free Monday. It was loaded with 1.52 million liters of toluene and benzene, both flammable and toxic. State police Capt. Ronnie Jones said instruments showed benzene in the air and readings throughout the day showed the concentration of fumes alternating from safe to unsafe. Police said shifting winds could require the evacuation of downtown Baton Rouge. The downtown area includes the state Capitol, other state government buildings and the Governor's Mansion. The barge overturned near the west bank and began leaking below the water line. More than a dozen families were evacuated in Port Allen, and on the east side in Baton Rouge, Southern University was evacuated as well.

מקטנים האוכלוסיה

CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Don't watch TV? Still gotta pay that fee!

By RUTHIE BLUM

Beware, warns the Israel Broadcasting Authority, not paying its television fee, lest the big bad collection department confiscate your set and sell it into slavery.

Some people ignore these warnings, judging the risk of being ferreted out by the IBA to be slim. Others, viewing this tax on TV sets to be unjust, refuse to pay it, also regarding the chances of getting caught and having their set taken away as small.

S.R. and I.G. currently live in a rented house in Efrat which is not equipped with a TV antenna on the roof. There is no reception, so the couple can only watch videotapes. Because the house is rented, the couple does not want to install an antenna at their own expense. As S.R. and I.G. are law-abiding and otherwise responsible citizens, they have always paid their annual TV fees on time.

This year, however, the couple, unable to view any channel whatsoever, is seeking an exemption. After looking into the law, I would like to state for the record that it is unjust and reminiscent of Bolshevism at its finest.

According to the IBA Collection Department, paragraph 29 of the Broadcasting Authority Law states that a person who purchases or otherwise receives a television set, must report this to the IBA within 30 days and begin paying the fee which is imposed on the possession of a set - not on whether the owners watch television.

The law further states that no matter how many televisions we own, we only have to pay for one.

People who live in areas where reception is poor are requested to inform the IBA, to enable it to try and locate the problem and correct it by generally improving the nationwide network. Anyone who

sells or transfers his TV set to someone else must inform the IBA in writing within 30 days. Anyone going abroad for a period of over six months can be exempt from paying the TV fee during that period if he transfers the set to someone else who pays the fee. Anyone doing this must inform the IBA in writing and provide the name and other personal data of the person "babysitting" for the set. Within 30 days of returning to Israel, he must inform the IBA and resume paying his fees.

Finally, TV merchants must inform the IBA of every transaction involving the transfer of a TV set, whether it is a sale, a rental, or a loan.

The following are methods of paying the fee:

1. A single, advance payment. (This year, the last date for doing this was the end of February.)
2. In two installments, the first of which could have been paid, without a fine, by the end of February. If paid in March, there is a 10 percent fine and if in April, the fine is 20 percent. The second installment can be paid in July.
3. Via standing order at the bank. Payment is split into four parts. It is currently possible to sign a standing order and to begin paying from the second of the four installments for 1997.

Notice of payment should come in the mail. The fee can be paid at any postal bank branch - with or without this notice. It is also possible to pay the IBA directly with a credit card.

The IBA recommends that the public pay via standing order so it can "perform collection on time."

Beware, big brother is watching.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.



Guerlain of Paris is offering Shalimar silky body lotion and cream to those with champagne tastes and beer budgets.

FLAIR

Spring in the air

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Spring is always a signal for new fragrances, which like fashion, are also in retro mood. One of several new perfumes on the market is Gucci's Envy, which suggests strong passion both in its name and in its almost overpowering strength of its scent.

Like envy itself, there is no delicate subtlety here, but a full-blown sensual bouquet whose top notes are hyacinth and magnolia, with jasmine, lily of the valley and violet at the heart and iris, wood and musk as the base notes. A 100 ml bottle of eau de toilette sells for NIS 338, whereas body cream in the same range requires an outlay of NIS 147 for 200 ml.

Body creams and lotions are always much more economical buys than perfume or eau de toilette, and are much longer lasting. Guerlain of Paris is offering Shalimar silky body lotion and silky body cream to people with champagne tastes and beer budgets. A 200 ml bottle of body lotion retails for NIS 169, which is roughly 10 percent of what it would cost to purchase a bottle of perfume in the same volume. Shalimar, by the way, is a very enduring fragrance. It was first marketed in 1928.

Fashion designer Thierry Mugler who last year introduced his Angel perfume has now followed up with complementary body lotion and gel cleanser enhanced with Vitamin B and aloe extracts. A 125 ml bottle of body lotion is available for NIS 120.

Two grandmothers find gain in their loss

Although they don't know each other, Betty Rohde of Gore, Oklahoma and JoAnna Lund of DeWitt, Iowa, have several things in common. Both are grandmothers, both were at one time seriously overweight and both wrote cookbooks that transformed their lives - and their bank accounts.

Five years ago, Rohde went to see her doctor because she had little energy and didn't feel well. He told her she was so fat and her cholesterol and triglycerides were so high she'd either have to go on a low-fat diet or she'd die of a heart attack.

"All I could think of was that if I died, my husband would remarry, and some other woman would get to enjoy the brand-new, beautiful Victorian home that we had just built. And that made me really mad." So Rohde, a grandmother of six, began to change the way she cooked.

"I didn't cut portion size or sugar, or stop eating the Southern foods I like. I just cut out the fat," she says.

In six months she had lost 18 kg., and all her friends wanted her recipes.

"When I had lost 66 pounds [30 kg.], I borrowed \$200 from my husband and published 200 copies of my cookbook. When those were all sold, I ordered 400 more and began driving to every independent bookstore in Oklahoma."

By this time, she had dropped almost [39 kg.], going from size 18 to size 8, and had used her doctor's description of her as part of her book's title: *So Fat, Low Fat, No Fat*.

Eventually, she was putting over 6,000 kilometers a month on her car and ordering 10,000 books at a time to sell out of her trunk. When she had sold 50,000 books, Simon and Schuster offered her a publishing contract.

Today, Rohde estimates she has sold half a million books. She has also increased her self-esteem, gained self-confidence and done something she had never done until two years ago: Flown on an airplane by herself.

The other grandmother, Lund, knows why she has been such a success.

"I am the audience. I'm just a middle-aged grandma, living in the middle of the cornfields of Iowa,

with less than perfect hips," she confides. Should anyone doubt her, Lund holds up the size-28 pants she once wore when she weighed 136 kg. and tells viewers that she's now a normal size 14,

Betty Rohde lost 30 kg. and sold half a million books.

thanks to her own common sense and healthful recipes.

She then proceeds to make a pie, ready to eat, in three minutes, using fat-free cream cheese, instant vanilla pudding, nonfat powdered milk, Diet Mountain Dew, Cool Whip Light and blueberry fruit spread.

She had gained a lot of her weight when two of her children left to serve in the Gulf War, and she thought that eating doughnuts might help relieve her worry and stress.

After she realized what she had done, she decided not to go on a

diet, but to start eating more healthily. She started losing weight anyway. Her friends urged her to write a cookbook, and her life began to change.

"I sold my first book on October 12, 1991," she said. "Five years later, I've sold more than a million books. And all this from a woman who never created a recipe before she was 46 and never spoke in public before she was 48," says Lund.

She's now 52, and she and her husband, Cliff (who has lost 14 kg.), have a \$1 million enterprise that includes a restaurant, catering business, radio talk show and monthly newsletter.

How does she create her recipes? "I have four rules, and I never deviate from them," she says. They are: The recipe must be healthful, not just for weight loss but for diabetics and heart patients. Secondly, every recipe must pass a taste test by her truck-driving husband; thirdly, if it takes longer to fix it than to eat it, forget it; and lastly, every ingredient must be able to be found in DeWitt, Iowa. If you can find it there, she says, you can find it anywhere.

(The Washington Post)

For goodness sake... drink as a ritual

By DANIEL ROGOV

A 15th-century Japanese adage warns that there can be no greater mortification for a host than if his servants offer sake that has not been appropriately warmed.

Considering that even a minor mortification was considered a reason for *hara-kiri* (ritual suicide), most hosts made a point of testing the temperature of these beverages before they were brought to table.

Five centuries later, the rules of etiquette are a bit less demanding.

It is, however, still considered mandatory to serve sake with any Japanese dinner. And currently, as a visit to local pubs or restaurants will show, sake is also the rapidly rising star on the beverage scene.

Sake, which is the famous rice wine of Japan, was reportedly first made in the third century. This early drink was called *kuchikami no sake*, which translates into "chewing-in-the-mouth sake."

The name evolved because during various Shinto religious festivals, it was traditional for the members of a village to chew rice and then spit it into a wooden tub where it would ferment.

Fortunately for those with sensitive stomachs, after yeast was discovered, it was no longer necessary to rely on half-chewed rice to make Japan's most popular beverage.

Categorized more correctly as a beer than a wine, modern sake is made by washing and polishing rice (the polishing removes most of the fatty acids that cause hangovers) by steeping the rice in spring water and transferring it to wooden tubs into which steam is forced.

A skillful brewer then chooses the yeast spores most suited to each batch, blends the batches together and brings the sake to its desired 15 to 20 percent alcohol content.

Sake brewers are considered practitioners of one of Japan's noblest and most mysterious art forms.

Good sake ranges from colorless to a very light lemon color with a vague green tint to deep amber. But whatever its color, sake should be perfectly clear.

For this purpose, sake is often tasted in special ceramic or porcelain "snake-eye" cups on the bottom of which are several concentric circles. If, as one peers into the cup those lines are distorted, it is a sign that the sake is not as clear as it should be.

While those cups are ideal, wine glasses or the square wooden cups known as *masu* can also be used for drinking.

Although sake served in cups or glasses can be served warm, chilled or at room temperature, that offered in *masu* should always be served at room temperature.

Under no circumstances should sake be served hot, for overheating destroys its natural flavors. One sips from a corner of the wooden serving vessel and that corner can be sprinkled with a bit of salt.

From whatever vessel you drink your sake, be aware that it is considered in bad taste to pour sake for yourself.

The accepted tradition is to serve your neighbors at the table, while they in turn serve you.

It is also considered poor manners to let your neighbor's cup become empty, and you should refill it as often as necessary until he or she indicates that they have had enough.

Equally important in the evaluation of sake is aroma, and so complex is the language that has evolved about the flavors of sake that at least 90 different words are used to describe them.

FOR SAKE DRINKERS, tasting can be a marvelous exercise in ritual.

First, the sake is slurped to allow air in, and the beverage is then pushed around the mouth, allowing the tongue, the palate and the roof of the mouth full exposure.

The most experienced tasters then suck in a little air and then slowly breathe the air out through their nostrils, an act that gives intense impressions of scent and taste.

Sakes can be sweet, semi-dry or dry and, like wine, can have medium, light or heavy body and can be clean, dry or even "ill bred." Sake that is too heavy is said to be *garrulous, cloying, heavy* or *thick*.

On the positive side, sake whose flavors linger comfortably in the mouth and nostrils after it has been swallowed, is said to "have a tail."

Three different brands of sake are now widely available in local wine stores and pubs, and at



Sake brewers are considered practitioners of one of Japan's noblest and most mysterious art forms.

least seven more can be found in various Japanese restaurants.

Unlike fine wines that can age for many years, most sakes are best when served young. Bottles are almost always marked with the date of bottling, so buy sake that is less than a year old. Once at home, sake should be stored in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight.

Remember that sake deteriorates rapidly after the bottle has been opened.

Those who want to determine which is their favorite sake will do well to go, ideally with a group of three or four friends, to one of the better Japanese restaurants in the country. Order one glass or *masu* of each of the sakes available, sharing tasting experiences with your companions. For sobriety's sake, the tasting should be accompanied by a variety of first courses such as sushi or sashimi.

At this writing, the broadest selection can be found at either the Tel Aviv or Herzliya branches of Takamaru. Good tastings can also be made in Tel Aviv at *Kyoto* or *Yakimono* and in Jerusalem at *Sakura*.

Those in pursuit of further knowledge about sake will do well to seek out Hiroshi Kondo's excellent *Sake - A Drinkers' Guide* which is published in English by Kodansha International in Tokyo, New York and London.

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A minimum too dear

The decision taken on Monday by the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee to raise the minimum wage to NIS 2,349 per month — 47.5% of the average wage — is difficult to criticize. To state that one is opposed to the increase is to open oneself to charges of being heartless to the working poor, especially considering how difficult it is to make ends meet on some NIS 2,300 a month.

Nevertheless, after weighing the pros and cons, the conclusion which must be reached is that the decision to raise the minimum wage — and automatically adjust it on a yearly basis — may in the long run increase both unemployment and inflation. The price for these negative effects will in all likelihood be paid by the weaker elements of society. While no one can impugn the intentions of MKs Tamar Gozansky, Meir Sheerit, Anat Maor and Maxim Levy, they are operating under traditional assumptions that the way to fight poverty is by imposing high taxes, increasing government transfers to the poor and legislating wage increases. These remedies have been tried for decades in many countries, and have failed to effectively combat poverty.

Instead of focusing almost exclusively on who gets what, a number of thinkers in recent years have proposed alternative methods of fighting poverty, based on the dynamic elements within economies that produce greater wealth for all through real economic growth. The emphasis is on repairing the structure of the economy, rather than legislating changes. Adopting this point of view is preferable to maintaining the older, socialist-based ideas behind the Knesset committee's actions.

Accurately predicting the economy-wide effects of government actions is notoriously difficult, because of the enormous complexity of modern economies. Three years ago, Princeton University economists David Card and Alan Krueger caused a stir in academic economics when they reported that, according to studies they had conducted in California, Texas, and New Jersey, raising the minimum wage sometimes actually increased employment. They explained this result by suggesting that being paid more money caused employees to take their jobs more seriously and conscientiously, which in turn led to greater productivity, less need for supervision, and reduced employee turnover.

While there might be a ring of plausibility to these claims, more recent studies have unfortunately indicated that raising the minimum wage is more likely to be the cause of worker layoffs or lead certain businesses to decline to hire new workers, in line with the theory that profits suffer when employees are forced to pay more per hour than they receive in labor value from workers. In addition, Card's and Krueger's studies focused on

low-wage earners in the restaurant industry, especially the hamburger-flipping teenagers in the type of fast-food eateries that are increasingly dotting the Israeli skyline. If all restaurants across the board are required to pay their employees more, they are all likely to pass on the extra costs to their customers. The teenagers will presumably also outgrow these jobs very quickly.

However, there are other industries, such as textiles, which are more likely to employ older minimum-skilled and minimum-wage workers who cannot afford to lose their jobs. If labor costs in these industries increase too sharply, employers might be tempted to take advantage of Israel's new relations with neighboring states and relocate their factories to countries with lower labor costs, such as Egypt.

In the Israeli context the effects of raising the minimum wage on inflation should not be discounted either. The minimum wage is calculated as a percentage of the average wage. But increasing the minimum wage in itself raises the average wage. In addition, the raising of the minimum wage leads other workers to demand more when they come to the collective bargaining table. Add to this the increase in prices due to extra costs being passed on to consumers, and one has a recipe for inflationary pressure. Much effort has been expended in recent years to reduce the Israeli inflation rate to "European levels." We are not there yet, and a trend toward increasing inflation would undermine efforts aimed at attracting foreign investment. Again, the greatest hardships caused by a slumping economy will be borne by the workers whose interests are supposed to be protected by the new legislation.

Finally, consideration should be given to the type of economy we want. There are an estimated 300,000 minimum-wage earners here — some 15% of the workers — many of them women. It is troublesome that such large numbers of people are at the bottom of the pay scale. MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) has stated that he supports increasing the minimum wage precisely because it may cause the collapse of minimum wage industries, "which have no place in Israel." But getting rid of those industries will not help those low-skilled workers who have lost their jobs. More productive proposals have been made by the Bank of Israel, such as reducing the size of the public sector and lowering the tax burden in order to bring about larger net wages. Structural change which leads to higher labor productivity is the healthiest method to raise wages.

Finally, there is one major role the government must perform in order to combat low wages: It must promote education and skill-enrichment opportunities for the public. A highly skilled population commands high-skill wages and has no need of a minimum wage law.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FORGOTTEN CONCESSIONS

Sir, — In all the discussions of withdrawal on the Golan, there is never a mention of the fact that Israel has already given up a part of the Golan, including Kuneitra. Doesn't that count?

In 1975 Clinton was still down in Arkansas and can't be expected to remember. But what about us? Have we forgotten the Kissinger shuttles, his impatience with poor beleaguered Rabin for wanting to keep those "three little hills" — the obstacle to the peace process of the day — culminating in American pressure in the form of "reassessment" of US-Israeli relations?

Territorial concessions may relieve the pressure of the moment, but in time they disappear down the memory hole.

Haifa.

HUSSEIN FOR PM

Sir, — I happily chose Mr. Romi Milo as Mayor of Tel Aviv, and I have accepted Mr. Bill Clinton as the offshore president of Israel, so may I now request that King Hussein be our prime minister. At least until we can find someone better.

Tel Aviv.

RESPECT BETWEEN EQUALS

Sir, — Haim Shapiro commented ("Mob rule," March 16), "The true test of a democracy is not how it treats 'nice' minorities, but how it deals with the unpleasant ones."

Suggesting that the Jehovah's witnesses are in any way unpleasant only adds to the growing intolerance in this country.

The quality of Israeli society would be greatly enhanced if we, including Mr. Shapiro, decided not only to treat all people with respect, but we also decided to treat them, and their religious beliefs, as equal to our own.

Arad.

SHAME ON US

Sir, — Christoph Meili, the night watchman of a Swiss bank who rescued the Holocaust documents from the bank's shredder has been fired. Is there an abundance of people of Mr. Meili's moral integrity? I think not. A man of this caliber ought to be honored by gentiles and Jews alike.

Yet, what is the situation: Christoph Meili is likely to remain unemployed in his own country. And what about us, the Israelis? We are satisfied with the pittance of \$40,000 given by the Jewish Anti Defamation League without contributing anything on our own.

Mr. Meili has become jobless. He might have a family. He might soon be in need.

Shame on all of us.

Jerusalem.

AFRICA ISRAEL'S COMMITMENT

Sir, — In Larry Derner's article So tell me, who's a coercer...? (March 7), he wrote of Mr. Leviev that "...he is the principal owner of the building that will house the mall, and he has the prerogative to close it on Shabbat, if that's what he decides."

Mr. Derner has it wrong. Mr. Leviev is not the owner. The owner of the building is Africa Israel, a corporation, a separate legal entity. If Africa Israel has committed itself to the investors that the mall in Ramat Aviv will keep open on Shabbat, then Mr. Leviev and all the other stockholders are bound by this commitment.

Ra'anana.

HOME SWEET HOME

Sir, — Why does Ben Benson (Letters, March 5) think that American green card regulations are relevant to Palestinians who absent themselves from the land of their birth? Green cards are issued to visitors from abroad. Native Americans do not lose their right to return to the

US however long they spend abroad. Many Israeli Jerusalemites choose to spend a few years abroad without losing the right to return home. Why should Palestinian Jerusalemites be treated differently?

Jerusalem.

THE REAL HUSSEIN

Sir, — Only someone with a heart of stone could fail to have been moved by King Hussein's noble condolence visit to the seven bereaved families in Beit Shemesh whose young daughters were so brutally murdered by one of his soldiers. For this act alone, so different from the callous attitude displayed by Egyptian President Mubarak after the murder of seven Israeli tourists (of whom 5 were young children) by one of his soldiers at Ras Burka in 1985, he has earned the respect and admiration of many Israelis.

One can only hope that this is the real Hussein, that he has changed and become a genuine friend and peace partner to the Jewish state. Those of us with long memories remember how King Hussein has been an adamant foe of Israel for most of his reign; how he forbade

Jews from visiting and from worshipping at our holy places during the 19 years of Jordanian occupation of eastern Jerusalem; how our synagogues were systematically destroyed and our tombstones used as latrine covers

Hostility towards Israel was constantly heard, and his citizens were educated from kindergarten to hate everything Israeli, Zionist and even Jewish. Neither is it easy to forget the King's support for Saddam Hussein during the Gulf war six years ago. So what has brought about this almost Biblical miraculous change? Does it reflect his deepest, innermost feeling? Or is it merely skin-deep? It would be interesting to hear King Hussein's comments on these points!

Kiryat Ono.



An end to self-respect

King Hussein's visit to Beit Shemesh to see the families whose daughters were murdered a week ago was, without doubt, a humanitarian act. But what followed was a tasteless gesture by thoughtless hosts.

Was it necessary to usher the king, his hands still warm from shaking those of the distraught families, into a festive dinner at the King David Hotel? At the very least, it showed a lack of sensitivity.

But what came then was Israeli political leadership at its lowest level.

Benjamin Netanyahu was aware that the king's visit was strongly condemned by Jordan's opposition, which came out in support of the soldier who slew the Israeli youngsters and injured others.

So there was a price to pay for Hussein's bold decision to visit. And Hussein, in a bid for a more dominant role in the peace talks, suggested a stream of concessions to Yasser Arafat, just as he did over Hebron. He was backed by President Clinton, who had sent a secret message to Netanyahu a couple of days before, outlining similar concessions.

Among them was safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza for Palestinians, and 400 new housing units in Sur Baher, an Arab neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem.

But first and foremost, Arafat would finally be allowed, for his own personal purposes, to use Dahamiya airport in Gaza. A port would also be constructed there. Netanyahu agreed to go ahead.

To ensure that Arafat met Netanyahu the following night, the PLO chief was told that, in future, he could fly to and from Gaza without undergoing inspection by Israeli officials. Naturally, the PLO chief was delighted with this concession. It fulfilled a Palestinian dream, he said. And he intends to inaugurate the occasion with a fly-by performance tomorrow.

Israeli officials hinted that this freedom would eventually extend to all aircraft landing at Dahamiya, pending "other security arrangements at the airport yet to be finalized."

Now this is something both Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres refused adamantly to sanction. Both men — and Netanyahu — were given repeated security and intelligence warnings that if the airport and port were allowed to operate unchecked by Israel, it would be tantamount to an open invitation for the Palestinians to flood Gaza with modern weaponry. Which is precisely what Arafat wants.

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

A concession that could lead to war? Yes — but Netanyahu was convinced that a grateful Arafat would at least ensure a successful meeting between them the following night.

Yet once again, Arafat demonstrated how simple it is to humiliate the Israeli prime minister. After canceling the meeting, he wouldn't even come to the phone.

Work began at Har Homa this week, but at the cost of dangerous concessions to the PLO

The meaning of the snub was clear: "Your proposals are inadequate. Try harder." Panic seems to have taken command in Jerusalem.

A FRANTIC call was made to Hosni Mubarak. Precisely what Netanyahu said to the Egyptian president we don't know. But we know that he pleaded with Mubarak, asking him to persuade Arafat "to be reasonable."

After dining with King Hussein, a real friend, it seems incongruous that the prime minister should humble himself before Mubarak, who attacks Israel and Netanyahu every chance he gets, either directly, or via his pliant press. Netanyahu was scraping the bottom of the barrel of self-respect.

He got a dusty reply from a president resentful over the way the king was muscling in on the peace process, when Mubarak saw himself as leader of the Arabs.

One word from Cairo, and Arafat would have leapt to meet Netanyahu at any time of the day or night. Arafat makes no move vis-a-vis Israel without consulting Mubarak, as the Hebron negotiations clearly showed.

Mubarak's displeasure was predictable. Just before the phone call from Netanyahu, he had been declaring in Cairo that Netanyahu should have resigned following the opposition he encountered in his coalition cabinet. Great advice indeed from a "democrat" who makes sure those who challenge him come to a sticky end.

Worse was to follow. The concession enabling Arafat to avoid inspection of his personal transport threatens our civilians

and our soldiers. It is no secret that the PLO leader's minions who are granted VIP status abuse the privilege, smuggling weapons and explosives with impunity on the West Bank and Gaza.

An intelligence source told us that whenever Arafat travels, his vehicle is always loaded down with weaponry, its chassis hanging low on the road. Netanyahu's security people, as well as the IDF, constantly warn that this method of transporting weapons and explosives is common in the Palestinian Authority.

The prime minister was also warned that, with work beginning on Har Homa, Arafat has given the go-ahead to Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders on renewing terror attacks against Israelis.

It is no more than the task of intelligence chiefs to express opinions on this and other security dangers facing the country; and it is the function of governments to weigh such warnings.

Then they must make a political decision — in this case, whether to press ahead with construction, or wait. When the country's vital interest is at stake, they cannot allow themselves to be swayed by criticism at home or abroad.

The work that started at Har Homa two days ago is the first sign that Netanyahu is beginning to understand this. Hopefully, this understanding will strengthen as final status negotiations proceed.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

POSTSCRIPT

ABRAHAM MUNGIA was doing pretty well with walking. So the three-year-old moved up a step to try driving the family car.

The toddler from Corpus Christi, Texas, grabbed the keys from a table while his mother was on the telephone and slipped out of the house.

He climbed into the family car, stood up behind the steering wheel, started "er up."

"Once he turned the motor on, the way the carburetor was set the car started to roll, and he knew he needed to steer," a police captain said.

Abraham made it through two busy intersections before the car bounced over a curb, plowed through a fence and stopped three blocks from home.

"He was still standing up," the policeman said. "He never even fell down."

"We're not giving him a ticket," he said. "We figure maybe he was going out for a cookie."

Hard facts

LARRY DERFNER

Why are so many moderate Jews complaining about Har Homa? Don't they believe in United Jerusalem — all for Israel, none for the Palestinians? Well, this is how you do it — with bulldozers, with soldiers. Facts on the ground.

Har Homa isn't just any housing project, either. It's a supremely strategic one. It fills in the "ring" of Jewish neighborhoods around the capital, cutting off Jerusalem from the Arab West Bank. The Rabin government initiated the plan, and the Netanyahu government is bringing it to fruition.

So what's the problem? It'll set off a wave of terror, it'll kill the peace process? Not necessarily.

There are Israeli soldiers and cops all over the place, locked and loaded. The government has made it plenty clear that there will be no "restraint," like there was during September's riots (when about 70 Palestinians were shot to death, along with 16 Israelis).

It's by no means certain that the Palestinians are ready to go through that again, or something worse. Netanyahu sounds like he's full of beans this time; he could send the tanks into Gaza, Ramallah, really shake their world.

Maybe he could get away with it. Diplomatically, he's not doing badly so far.

King Hussein, chastened as he is by the Naharayim massacre, isn't making any big noises. The Americans seem to have accepted Har Homa as a regrettable fait accompli, and are calling, above all, for the Palestinians not to go to war.

Most importantly, Arafat sounds like he's trying to keep a lid on things, at least for now.

There's no telling. The whole Middle East could blow up; but there's also a real possibility that Netanyahu could pull this one off.

The opposition claim they want a united Jerusalem. Well, they're seeing it in action now, on Har Homa

WOULDN'T that be wonderful? Wouldn't that be the best of both worlds — putting down a decisive Israeli marker on Jerusalem, without having to pay the price in blood? Isn't that what the Labor Party and all its good, moderate, patriotic supporters would like to see?

Sure it is. They should get behind Netanyahu, strengthen his hand by showing the world that even Israeli "doves" are for this project, instead of whimpering, "Not now; there'll be trouble."

The impression is that they agree in principle with Netanyahu on Jerusalem, but, unlike the prime minister, don't have the guts to stand up for what they believe in.

The consensus-minded folks in the opposition are miserable for good reason: Har Homa is revealing the contradiction in their political creed, the contradiction between demanding Maximum Jerusalem and, at the same time, allowing Palestinians to keep their self-respect.

When Palestinians say Har Homa is their humiliation, what do the well-intentioned moderates think — that it's just a result of overweening Arab pride and touchiness? Or that it's a trick, that the Palestinians don't really give a damn about this city they call Al-Kuds, that they made it all up just to spite us?

The "centrist" criticism of Netanyahu is that he acted unilaterally, "unilaterally" — that if he had just explained to Arafat that Israel needs Har Homa to cement its exclusive claim on One Big Jerusalem, the Palestinians wouldn't have taken it so hard.

Sorry, there's no way to finesse this issue. If we want to rule all of Jerusalem eternally, we have to ram it down the Palestinians' throats. We have to smother their will, and the sooner the better.

Netanyahu's doing it. He's riding very tall in the saddle, and the Palestinians are stumbling around like they've been gutshot. In Netanyahu's eyes, this is the way it should be. These are the proper relations for making "peace."

Unpleasant? Not what the loyal opposition had in mind? When Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak and the other middle-of-the-roads see the spectacle on Har Homa, they are seeing United Jerusalem in action.

Until they find the courage to break the national consensus and call for a Shared Jerusalem, they should at least have the courage to admit that those bulldozers are only doing their dirty work.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Jobbing on the drink: a Mexican worker up to his armpits in tequila takes another load of cooked agave at Don Felipe's tequila distillery.

مركز الأبحاث

US Congress opens Web sites to reach 'wired' voters

On the Internet, where new products come and go in the blink of an eye, time is said to move at "Internet speed." But in the rarefied air of Congress, where legislation often moves at a glacial pace, few would equate "Washington time" with the speed of cyberspace. That may be changing, however, as Congress struggles to come to grips with the Net as a phenomenon with great potential for reaching voters.



Sen. Pat Leahy has a Web site in which he chats with schoolchildren.

In the 1996 election, exit polls showed more than 25 percent of voters were "wired" and about 10 percent primarily used online sources of information in deciding how to vote. Responding to the surge in Net use by voters, congressional Internet use also has skyrocketed. At the beginning of 1994, just a handful of lawmakers had posted home pages on the World Wide Web. Two years later, 222 representatives and 85 senators had Web pages. The Congressional Internet Caucus has 91 members, up from 60 in the last Congress. Despite the flurry of activity, Congress will never be on the cutting edge, according to some who work in the capital.

The site is accessible only to that individual with a password.

Senator Pat Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, participates in live online chat sessions with schoolchildren in his home state with transcripts on his Web site.

Leahy's office also is planning to start a newsgroup, a type of group mailing list on the Net, devoted to Vermont issues. Almost all legislators accept electronic mail but most respond on paper through the mail. Leahy's office is one of the few that answer e-

mail with e-mail, staffer Paul Mann said. Although some feared this might overwhelm the office with too many messages, "surprisingly it hasn't happened," Mann said.

For the co-chairman of the Internet Caucus, Representative Rick White, the Internet is a key foundation of his media strategy. "The first place we send any press release is to our Web page," White staffer Aaron Weissman told the Web site to find copies of a release to send to the media, Weissman added.

The Internet is also changing the way groups lobby Congress. The Citizen's Internet Empowerment Coalition set up a Web page to get Internet users to send e-mail to Congress on the issue of restricting obscenity on the Net.

But since legislators are most interested in hearing from voters in their own districts, the page looks up the e-mail address of an Internet user and guides users to send targeted messages. "We have a responsibility as advocates to educate Internet users," said Jonah Seiger of the Center for Democracy and Technology, which helped set up the coalition's site.

Much more remains to be done to educate users and legislators. While the text of bills is available online, some advocates want Congress to make more information available.

"There are broad sections of the electorate that are entirely uninformed about what our Congress does," Gary Ruskin, director of the Congressional Accountability Project, said. "So much of the problem is that it is very, very difficult to obtain in real time the core documents of our democracy." Ruskin urged that Congress post an assortment of documents on the Web, including voting records, disclosure forms, testimony from hearings and draft legislation. (Reuter)

Under attack

A leaked letter written by Britain's chief rabbi has sparked an outcry. Now, Jonathan Sacks is trying to fend off criticism and patch relations between Orthodox and Reform Jews, Aryeh Dean Cohen reports

Britain's Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks rarely saw eye-to-eye on religious matters with the late rabbi Hugo Gryn of the UK's Reform movement, but Sacks could hardly have foreseen the storm his decision to attend a memorial service for Gryn would stir among British Jewry.

The ensuing outcry surrounding the incident, which has Sacks under attack from both the left and right flanks of British Jewry, is largely the result of a letter he wrote to a hard-line leader in London explaining why he attended the ceremony, in which he referred to Gryn as "one of those who destroy the faith."

The letter was leaked to the Jewish Chronicle by a "right-wing Orthodox movement," according to a source close to the chief rabbi, whose members are "personally very envious" of the status of the chief rabbi. It appeared last Friday, along with an article by Sacks explaining the circumstances of his writing it.

Sacks' comments naturally incensed the non-Orthodox community, who have blasted the chief rabbi, already under fire from haredi circles for attending the service in the first place. Sacks did not attend Gryn's funeral because it took place in a Reform synagogue.

Ironically, it was to explain his decision to go to the memorial service that Sacks wrote the letter on January 20, marked "not for publication," to rabbi and religious court judge (dayan) Hanokh Dov Padwa, head of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations' rabbinical court.

That was a month before he attended the Board of Deputies' memorial service for Gryn, a Holocaust survivor who became a pillar of the postwar Reform Jewish community in Britain, and whose popular BBC radio program *The Moral Maze* turned him into a well-known personality among Jews and non-Jews alike.

Known as much for his humanism as his Judaism, he once spent a night in jail with the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. after marching with him in Selma, Alabama. At the ceremony, Sacks extolled Gryn for his courage, adding: "This was a *mensch*. In the deepest sense, this was a man. We were privileged to have him amongst us, and count him as a friend."

However, in the letter to Padwa, Sacks blasted Reform, Liberal and Masorti Judaism, saying that "they have no enemy or opponent equal to the chief rabbi." He also explained he attended as "the representative of the whole Jewish community," noting that failing to do so would undermine the idea that British Jews "know that there is a single religious representative of the Jewish community... in which the voice that is heard is the voice of Jacob, and that the Reform and Liberal movements do not have significant standing amongst us."

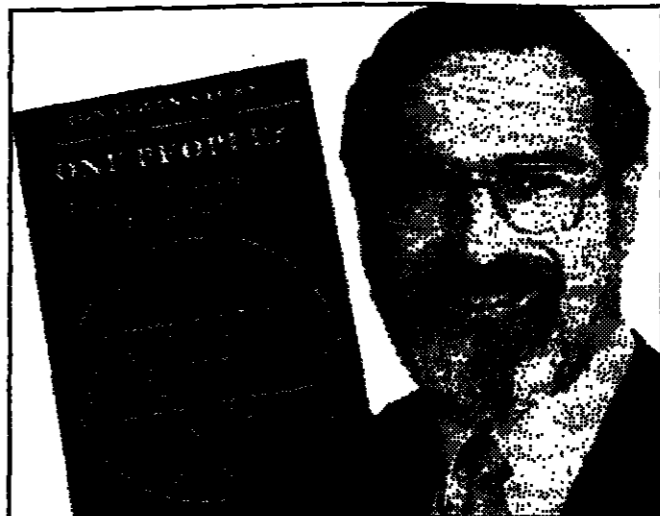
The letter includes a note indicating it was written in rabbinic Hebrew and included idioms "that cannot be translated fairly to reflect the far milder language

that would have been employed in modern English." "I used language I would not adopt in public," explained Sacks in his accompanying letter, noting that it had fallen into the hands of "individuals neither saintly nor honorable... seeking to stir up controversy again."

Despite his clarifications, the letter may lead to exactly what Sacks feared most - an attempt by Liberal, Reform and Masorti Jews to appoint their own chief

man. On the other, he is beholden to religious officials, many of whom regard any idea of outreach, particularly regarding Jews of other denominations, as anathema.

Marmur said that the episode showed the "ambiguity or impossibility of Sacks's situation. He's tried to appease his more Orthodox constituency by explaining his appearance in terms of Gryn's being an [Auschwitz] survivor, but not regarding his being a rabbi. He may have judged wrong on all counts.... He's been too liberal for the hard-right Orthodox flank, but appears to a lot of the British public at large, and certainly progressive Jews, as a wolf in sheep's clothing. He may have succeeded in alienating both his constituencies." Marmur believes the incident may lead non-Orthodox Jews, who were prepared to forgive Sacks for not attending Gryn's funeral, to lose their patience and question whether



One people? Reform, Liberal and Masorti Judaism 'have no enemy or opponent equal to the chief rabbi,' wrote Jonathan Sacks in a letter to the head of the rabbinical court.

they can continue to accept him as chief rabbi of all British Jews. "By coming up against the figure of Hugo Gryn, he may have forced the issue," he said.

Sacks was chosen as chief rabbi by the United Synagogue's 35,000 members, who, according to one estimate, represent 72% of all synagogue-affiliated Jews among the UK's 300,000 strong community. The Reform represent 16%; haredim about 6%; Liberal 5%; and Masorti 1%.

It remains to be seen whether his plea is heeded. What is certain is that, as Marmur noted ironically, "it's a particular shame that Hugo, who was such a unifying force, has now become a cause celebre which won't promote unity."

caused by the incident, Sacks pleaded in his article for "an end to public bickering." He called on Anglo-Jewish leaders and organizations to form a "Coalition for Peace in the Community," which would subscribe to seven points, including: "We will state clearly that those who sow dissension and dishonor Jewish values do not represent the community."

"We must now call a halt to the debate over Hugo Gryn," he pleaded. "A brave man has died, a man of courage and deep humanity. May he be allowed to rest in peace, and may we, at last, learn to live in peace."

He should show the haredi leaders that what he's doing is the right thing, and not apologize for it," said Rosen, who believes that by apologizing for attending the service, Sacks is undermining himself on both sides. "The quality of his leadership depends on his standing up to intimidation from any corner," Rosen said.

"Jonathan Sacks is in an almost impossible position," said Rabbi Michael Marmur, the English-born rabbi of the Ohel Abraham Synagogue at Haifa's Leo Baeck Education Center. "On the one hand, he's a brilliant, educated, urbane, witty

Virtual pet craze sweeps Japan

By dawn, a line of almost 2,000 people stretched a half a kilometer through the Ginza shopping district in Tokyo. Hundreds of them had spent the night camped out on the sidewalk in the numbing midwinter cold.

When you want a toy chicken badly enough, you will endure anything. And in its first two months of production, 500,000 were sold. "It is my responsibility to nurture it and help it grow; if I do not, its face will turn vicious and it will become a gangster chicken, then it will die," homemaker Kwon Myong Mi, 33, said earnestly, explaining why she waited hours in line to pay \$18 for a Tamagochi, the hottest new fad tearing across Japan.

The Tamagochi, which translates as "cute little egg," is a key-chain computer game about

the size and shape of an ordinary egg.

The game starts when an egg on the display screen hatches and a chicken is born.

The owner then uses three tiny buttons to feed, play with, clean up after and discipline it. Unlike most video games that are over in a few minutes, this one can go on for days.

With proper care, the chicken grows. If the owner forgets to feed it, it sounds a loud "peep peep" of complaint.

If the chicken poops and the owner doesn't clean up, it peeps even louder. The owner can tickle it with the press of button, or take its temperature and give it injections of "medicine" if it seems ill.

Ignore the chicken, drop it on the subway, forget it at home or neglect to tickle it often enough, and it will grow sickly and



Japan's new video game: When a computerized egg hatches, a virtual chicken is born.

mean-looking. Eventually it will die. Game over. The implication: You loser.

You can't even keep a fake chicken alive. (The Washington Post)

DEAR RUTHIE

Photogenic solution to a real mess

By RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie, The adjoining unit to our two-family house is occupied by litterbugs. Every time my wife or I return home from work in the afternoon, we find an array of garbage decorating our lawn. Sometimes it's banana peels, sometimes crumpled paper, sometimes soft-drink cans and bottles. We have complained on numerous occasions to the perpetrators, but to no avail.

They claim that since they are never home during those hours, it could not be their fault. We suggested that it may be their cleaning lady who is doing it, though we know she only cleans their house once a week and we find litter in our yard almost every day. What can we do? We have to go on living with these people until one

of us moves. Limer Bugged Mevasseret Dear Buried Under Banana Peels.

Before pointing an accusatory finger, first make absolutely certain that the rubbish has been tossed from the direction you suspect. In order to do this, you may have to "stake out" the scene of the crime - preferably with a camera on hand. This way, not only will you be able to give your neighbors and their cleaning lady the benefit of the doubt, but you will have proof of their guilt in the event that your original claim was right.

I imagine it would be extremely difficult for your neighbors to continue dismissing your complaints if confronted with a photo of garbage being flung into your yard from their house.

Dear Ruthie, My husband is going to reserve

duty for the whole month of April. When my parents in the US heard about this, they invited me to bring my children to the States for Pessah. I was so happy because I find it difficult to take care of my three kids by myself - especially during school holidays - and because I haven't attended a seder with my parents in many years.

The problem is my husband. He feels upset with me for wanting to leave the country when he is in the army. He wants to be able to visit us on weekends and he wants to spend the holiday with us. If I cancel this trip, my parents and children will be extremely disappointed, and so will I. If I do not cancel, my husband will be hurt and angry. What should I do? Caught in the Middle of Mom & Milum.

Somewhere in Israel Dear Caught in the Middle, What you are really asking is how you can make a choice with-

out arousing the ire or disappointment of your family or yourself. This may not be possible to do.

Canceling a trip which your parents, your children and you are all looking forward to would only have a point if reasons other than fear of your husband's anger were involved.

Furthermore, if your husband feels hurt and angry at the prospect of his family going away on a pleasurable trip while he is in the reserves, deeper feelings of insecurity must be lurking. As such, it is probably not the actual trip evoking his ill will, but more likely something in his past relating to abandonment which is responsible. If so, you can best serve him not by forfeiting this trip, but by assisting him emotionally to conquer his insecurity.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

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BUSINESS

in brief

IBM, Cellcom ink 'intelligent network' deal

IBM and Cellcom yesterday signed an agreement for the establishment of an "intelligent network" (IN) for the cellular phone company. IBM-Israel will serve as the principal contractor in the development and installation of the network, along with Bellcore and Nortel, which produces Cellcom's infrastructure equipment. IN allows the offering of sophisticated cellular phone services, such as automatic filtering of calls (accepting only those approved by the recipient), granting a private number by which callers can reach individuals wherever they are, depending on schedule and previous instructions; a virtual private network, an "intelligent" answering machine and dialing by voice.

Judy Siegel

Iraq at Egypt fair for first time since Gulf war

Egypt opened its annual trade fair yesterday with a record number of participating companies from 51 countries. Iraqi firm Ira sent a purchasing committee to shop for badly needed medicine and foodstuffs under its oil-for-food deal with the UN, the first time that nation has had a presence in the Cairo fair since the 1991 Gulf war. Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Ganzoury opened the 10-day exhibition, attended by nearly 1,000 foreign companies and 1,200 Egyptian firms. None of the Iraqi officials were seen at the opening ceremony, but it was not immediately clear why.

Asked to comment on the presence of Iraq, Kuwaiti Commerce and Industry Minister Jassem Abdullah Mudaf said "this is a trade fair and has nothing to do with the political decisions." AP

Krupp-Thyssen merger talks begin today

German steelmaking concerns Thyssen AG and Krupp AG announced yesterday they will begin talks today on forming what would be the world's third largest steel producer. Trading in stocks for both companies remained suspended for a second day on the German Stock Exchange as the companies said they were aiming to develop a joint venture plan within eight days.

India allows foreign ownership in oil projects

India will allow foreign companies to have 100 percent stakes in oil exploration projects, reversing a long-standing policy requiring state participation, India's petroleum minister said. In a statement Tuesday to Parliament, Petroleum Minister T.R. Baalu said private and foreign oil companies will no longer be forced to offer equity stakes to India's state oil companies when they bid for oil rights.

Previously, companies had to form joint ventures with state-run firms to bid for Indian oil, giving them equity stakes of up to 40%. Now the oil prospected will be owned by the private companies, which are free to sell it.

Korea's Sammi group files for bankruptcy

South Korea's debt-ridden Sammi Group requested court receivership yesterday to keep afloat the nation's leading specialty steel-maker, Sammi Steel Co. was declared bankrupt hours later, unable to honor 1.1 billion won (\$1.3 million) in debts at two local banks.

Under South Korean law, a second failure to honor a debt results in automatic bankruptcy. With annual production of 1.5 million tons, Sammi Steel was the world's third-largest producer of specialty steel.

Short-term capital inflows plummet in '96

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Foreign capital pumped into the economy by the private sector, a major barometer of excessively high interest rates, plummeted last year to \$4.4 billion from \$7.9b. in 1995, according to data released yesterday by the Bank of Israel.

Of the overall figure for capital inflows last year, \$3.6b. represented foreign-currency denominated loans taken by Israeli residents,

compared with \$6.3b. in 1995.

Foreign-currency denominated loans become more lucrative when the interest rates to which they are subjected are lower than those charged on shekel loans.

Due to the Bank of Israel's tight monetary policy over the past three years, lenders have tended to resort to foreign currency loans, while foreign investors sold foreign currency here in order to invest their shekel returns in local

banks, and thus benefit from the relatively high interest rates imposed by the central bank.

The danger in such a trend accelerating is that such short-term motivated inflows might flee the local scene as suddenly as they arrive, thus creating a hot-money crisis of the sort experienced by Mexico in December 1994. That affair resulted in a major devaluation of the peso and a severe austerity plan.

Meanwhile, the central bank also reported that foreign investments in Israel rose last year by another \$500 million to a total of \$2.7b.

Israel's overall foreign debt dropped another percentage point, from 23% to 22%, when compared with the gross national product. In nominal terms Israel's net foreign debt stood at \$19.9b. at the end of last year, \$1.7b. more than at the conclusion of 1995.

Hotel industry's revenues stagnant last year

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The hotel industry's overall revenues dropped slightly in real terms from 1995, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The bureau recorded a revenue of NIS 3.84 billion in current terms, about 10 percent more than in 1995. However, when adjusted for the cost-of-living index, there was a decrease of less than 1%, the bureau announced yesterday.

Also noteworthy was the fact that the revenue in shekels, from Israelis or tourists paying for services which were not VAT exempt, was greater than the revenue in foreign currency.

Foreign currency payments accounted for 46% of hotel revenue last year, compared with 51% in 1995.

The amount paid in shekels was NIS 2b., an increase of over 17% from 1995 in actual payments and a rise of between 5% and 6% in real terms, after adjustment for the cost-of-living index.

The statistics took into account all payments to hotels, not only for rooms and meals, but for sports activities and banquet facilities.

It did not include payments for time-sharing.

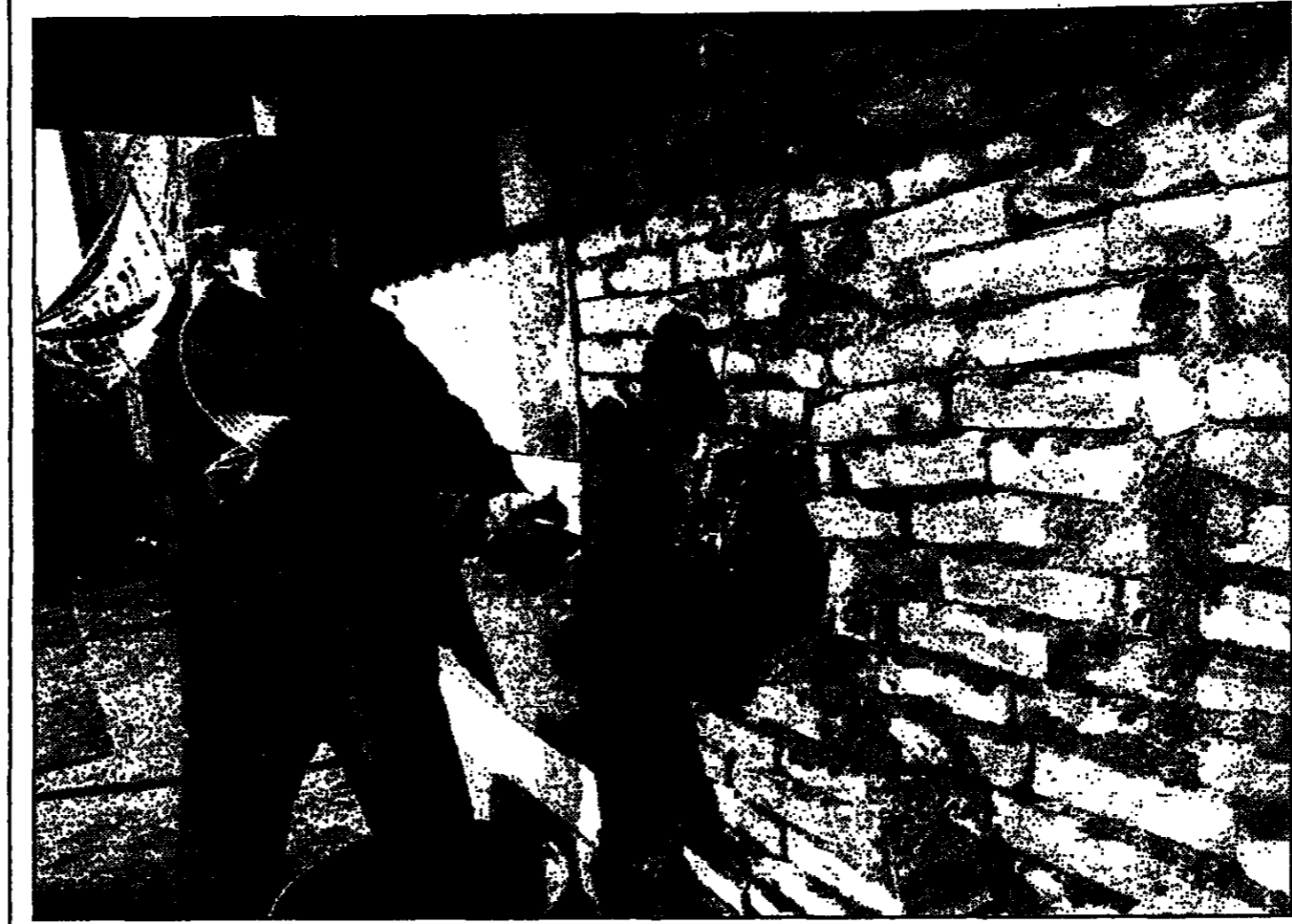
The hotels employed an average of 27,400 people a month last year, a slight drop from 1995, even though the number of room increased 4%.

The average wage for a hotel worker was NIS3,600, about 10% higher in actual terms than in 1995.

Commenting on the statistics, Hotel Association director Avi Rosental noted that the ratio of incoming tourists to Israeli guests is usually 60-40.

However, he added, in difficult years — such as during the intifada, the Gulf war or last year when tourism dropped following a string of terrorist attacks — the number of incoming tourists drops and they are replaced by domestic tourists.

Ideally, Rosental said, there should be a ratio of 65:35, in favor of incoming tourists.



Protest against Gdansk Shipyard closure

A worker from the bankrupt Gdansk Shipyard paints red a wall built to block the entrance to the main government party's headquarters in Gdansk yesterday. Some 1,000 laid-off workers protested against the closure of the yard, where the Solidarity union was born in 1980.

AP

King Fahd's nephew buys 5% share in TWA

DUBAI (Reuters) — Saudi Arabia's billionaire Prince Waleed bin Talal, whose global business empire includes stakes in banks, luxury hotels and an amusement park, said yesterday he has purchased five percent of the shares of Trans World Airlines Inc.

A statement from the prince's

office in Riyadh said "he has purchased 5% of the outstanding common stock of Trans World Airlines, Inc. for investment purposes." It did not give a value for the deal.

TWA is the US's seventh largest air carrier.

The statement said the purchase

was the first in the airline industry by the prince, who has also been touted as the possible white knight for bankrupt Dutch plane maker Fokker.

It described the deal as a new investment trend by the prince, a nephew of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

TWA on Tuesday reported a larger-than-expected net loss for the fourth quarter of 1996 of \$258.6 million, or \$3.56 a share, compared to a loss of \$37.8m., or

\$0.84 a share, a year earlier.

The prince, who calls a palace in Riyadh home, has built a multi-billion dollar business empire with interests in construction, real estate, banking, travel, broadcast media, supermarkets and other sectors.

His worldwide investments include shares in US banking giant Citicorp and Euro Disney, as well as international hotels like the famed Hotel George V in Paris and the Plaza Hotel in New York.

Analysts reiterate Teva's 'buy' rating

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Lehman Brothers and Dillon, Read & Co. yesterday reiterated their "buy" ratings of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, despite rumors that the US Food and Drug Administration has ordered Teva to change the labeling on its multiple sclerosis treatment.

Dillon, Read & Co. said in a report that the rumors, which were apparently caused by a competitor's comments, sent Teva's Nasdaq-traded shares falling to

6.2% on Tuesday to 53 15/16. As a result of a recent \$10 drop, Teva's shares are currently undervalued, Dillon said.

Biogen, a company that recently received approval to market its multiple sclerosis drug, Avonex, suggested in an announcement that Copaxone's delayed launch was the result of the FDA's demand that Teva remove a line from the drug's label concerning Copaxone's ability to slow multiple sclerosis's progression.

"The comments suggested that

the removal of a line concerning the progression of MS from Copaxone's label has delayed the product's launch," Dillon said. "In fact, the line had nothing to do with what Copaxone is indicated for nor how physicians prescribe the product. The line was actually taken out six months ago. The FDA merely did not want any suggestion of the product being indicated for progression of the disease."

Teva added that Copaxone will be launched on March 31, as originally scheduled.

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ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE TO PASSENGERS AND THOSE PLANNING TO MEET PASSENGERS

With the changeover to summer time, tonight at midnight (Thursday, March 20), passengers traveling abroad are advised to contact their airline to verify the departure time of their flight.

ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

NOTICE TO TRAVELERS USING THE LAND BORDER CROSSINGS WITH JORDAN

With the changeover to summer time at midnight, tonight, March 20, all the border terminals, on both the Israeli and the Jordanian sides, will operate according to Israel time.

Geotek gets \$18 million order from Hyundai

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Geotek Technologies, Inc. recently announced the receipt of an \$18 million order from Hyundai Electronics Industries of Korea.

Although Hyundai and Geotek, a developer of radio technologies, participate together in a telecommunications consortium in Korea, this is the first direct deal between the two.

"This deal is a validation of our

business," said Michael Carus, Geotek's CFO, adding that Hyundai intends to sell Geotek's products to third-party customers.

Geotek will supply Hyundai with its trunked mobile radio equipment. Based on its wireless, digital communications technology, the TRS equipment is designed to facilitate voice, dispatch and data communication between companies and their mobile workforces.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

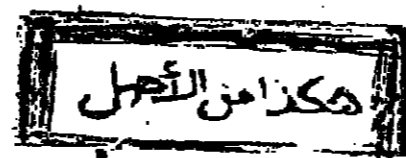
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	0.882	2.825	4.750
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (19.3.97)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BUY		SELL		Rate
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.6181	3.6785	3.6181	3.6785	3.6181
U.S. dollar	3.3311	3.3949	3.3311	3.3949	3.3311
German mark	1.9800	2.0120	1.94	2.04	1.9800
Pound sterling	5.3127	5.3884	5.22	5.48	5.3127
French franc	0.8867	0.8941	0.87	0.88	0.8867
Japanese yen (100)	2.7038	2.7475	2.65	2.74	2.7038
Dutch florin	1.7582	1.7866	1.72	1.82	1.7582
Swiss franc	2.3019	2.3301	2.26	2.38	2.3019
Swedish krona	0.4312	0.4382	0.42	0.46	0.4312
Norwegian krona	0.4882	0.4941	0.47	0.51	0.4882
Danish krona	0.5172	0.5273	0.51	0.54	0.5172
Finnish mark	0.8567	0.8673	0.84	0.89	0.8567
Canadian dollar	2.4205	2.4586	2.37	2.50	2.4205
Australian dollar	2.6238	2.6622	2.57	2.71	2.6238
S. African rand	0.7535	0.7622	0.74	0.77	0.7535
Belgian franc (10)	0.9571	0.9722	0.94	0.99	0.9571
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8080	2.8533	2.75	2.90	2.8080
Italian lira (1000)	1.9717	2.0036	1.93	2.04	1.9717
Jordanian dinar	4.9400	4.9900	4.84	5.05	4.9400
Egyptian pound	0.9500	0.9500	0.95	1.03	0.9500
ECU	3.8240	3.8857	3.77	4.00	3.8240
Irish punt	5.1943	5.2761	5.10	5.36	5.1943
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3242	2.3817	2.28	2.40	2.3242

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

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MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

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LAST CHANGE

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TASE ROUNDUP

Shares mixed in heavier trading

Mishtanim 243.20 ▼ 0.28% Maof 251.11 ▲ 0.26%

By FELICE MARANZ

Stock indexes were mixed yesterday as tension eased regarding building on Har Homa.

Declines in Israeli companies traded in the US offset gains.

The Maof Index of 25 issues rose 0.26 percent to 251.11, and the Mishtanim Index of 100 issues fell 0.28% to 243.20.

Concern that violence would erupt between Palestinians and Israelis waned as Palestinians protested peacefully on the second day of construction of a Jewish neighborhood on Har Homa, and as Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat called on Palestinians to avoid violence.

Stocks had fallen in recent days amid concern the building would spark rioting.

"For now, it seems the drama has passed," said Dror Kraus, a broker at Tel Aviv firm Koor Investment House.

Shares in S.Y. Shem Tov Ltd., the contractor who began bulldozing the hilltop on Tuesday, rose 10%, the daily limit.

Other gaining shares included Super-Sol Ltd., Israel's largest supermarket chain, which jumped 4.75%.

Supermarket and department store chain Blue Square Israel already traded in New York.

Of 960 shares trading across the exchange, nearly twice as many shares rose as fell.

Investment House "Arafat has relaxed the situation."

Investment House "Arafat has relaxed the situation."

Investment House "Arafat has relaxed the situation."

Investment House "Arafat has relaxed the situation."

Investment House "Arafat has relaxed the situation."

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NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

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WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Euro shares end mixed

News that US prices rose 0.3% last month, slightly more than market forecasts of 0.2%, prompted what Wall Street dealers called anticipatory selling ahead of the March 25 Fed meeting.

British shares had opened lower after news that Wall Street ended almost 59 points, or 0.85% weaker on Tuesday - more than double the 25-point loss it showed as London closed for business on Tuesday.

They then moved ahead before slipping as stronger-than-expected UK data revived the specter of higher British interest rates after the general election on May 1.

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Many analysts expect a boost to US interest rates to keep a lid on inflation.

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Knesset panel slams decision to release Dotan

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset State Control Committee has demanded that the state and security establishment petition the High Court of Justice against the early release of Rami Dotan after serving only half his 13-year prison sentence on corruption charges involving Israel Air Force purchases.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, answering several motions to the agenda in the Knesset plenum after the committee meeting, called the decision by a military parole board to release him Dotan on April 21 "a bitter and absolutely unacceptable mistake."

Dotan, a former chief IAF procurement officer was convicted of embezzling over \$10 million from US military contracts.

Mordechai said the High Court petition is the only means of appealing the decision. He stressed that representatives of the defense establishment who appeared before the parole board had opposed Dotan's early release. He said the defense establishment's stand is that "we are talking about such serious charges against an officer of the rank of brigadier-general that there can be no forgiveness or pardon."

The IDF Judge Advocate-General Brig.-Gen. Uri Shoham told the committee the defense establishment is working on amendments to the military law which put so much power in the hands of the parole boards. Unlike in the civil sector, the process of appeal against the military parole boards is severely limited, he said, and the decision does not need the approval of the defense minister.

Shoham said the parole board's decision has raised the ire of many within the military who think it gave too much weight on Dotan's health and too little on national security. Under the proposed amendments, early release would be possible only after prisoners have served two-thirds of their sentence; there will be the possibility of the state appealing it within the military system; and the state and minister will be able to

have a say. The changes, however, will not be retroactive and will not affect Dotan.

Yona Yahav (Labor) initiated the committee discussion and is leading a struggle within the Knesset against Dotan's release on health grounds. He described Dotan as "the biggest thief in military history" and said "his high blood pressure probably comes from knowing he can't spend the money he's stolen while he's in prison."

The MKs raised several questions about the handling of the case, including why Dotan was charged in a military court and is serving his sentence in a military prison. Shoham said field security had objected to Dotan being in a regular prison in case it opened him up to blackmail by other criminals.

Moshe Shahal (Labor), a former internal security minister, objected to this argument and said the Prisons Service manages to protect others convicted of serious crimes, such as traitor Mordechai Vanunu and spy Marcus Klingberg.

Defense Ministry legal adviser Zvia Gross also objected to the early release of Dotan, saying the parole board ignored the seriousness of the charges and the damage caused to relations between the US and Israel. She said his release could give the impression that this is a lawless society and harm trust in the legal system here.

Knesset Law Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) is also demanding that Dotan not be released early.

It adds: A special military committee headed by the chief IDF medical officer determined in its report to the military parole board that Rami Dotan's health does not present a problem to his continued incarceration. It said: "The committee believes that if Mr. Rami Dotan was jailed under standard conditions in a prison that has emergency medical facilities 24 hours a day, there would be no difference in the dangers facing him in jail and those in civilian life."

Hanegbi questioned again under caution

By RAINE MARCUS

Police investigating the Bar-On Affair summoned Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi for further questioning under caution last night, after earlier questioning Israel Bar Association chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai.

Hanegbi was questioned for more than 15 hours on Tuesday, supposedly for the last time. Now, said sources, police believe they have

enough evidence against him for an indictment.

After some two hours of interrogation at Jaffa police headquarters, Hoter-Yishai said it is about time that "investigators manage to release themselves from this issue." His questioning followed the uncovering of new evidence allegedly indicating he had discussed with David Appel the appointment of Roni Bar-On and

BAR-ON

that he had also recommended the latter as attorney-general to various judges.

Hoter-Yishai denies these allegations and said his questioning was the result of gossip by another lawyer. He was also questioned regarding alleged false evidence given at an earlier date.

Yesterday's sessions follow statements by police that the investiga-

tion is complete and that all evidence would be transferred to State Attorney Edna Arbel this morning.

Responding to the different dates given over past weeks regarding the completion of the inquiry, Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said yesterday that all probes may require additional questioning. "There are still many questions and answers in the case," Hefetz told a Tel Aviv police convention yesterday. "But we are definitely in the final stages."



Cop conference

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz (right) and Tel Aviv police chief Cdr. Shlomo Aharonishky attend yesterday's annual conference of Tel Aviv police officers. Aharonishky gave a summary of the past year's incidents and said that crime is on the decrease. Hefetz and mayor Ronni Milo also spoke.

Lau allowed to accept pay for weddings

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau's accepting payment from couples whom he marries is legal, the legal adviser of the Chief Rabbinate said yesterday.

The adviser, attorney Menaheim Yanovsky, issued a statement in response to a news item in Ha'aretz, which said that Lau received payments ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, handed to him in an envelope on the evening of the wedding. According to the daily, Lau sometimes opened the envelope, counted the money, and then, nodding to his driver, asked, "And what about him?"

The paper said that Lau, whose salary is the same as that of the president of the Supreme Court, officiated at more than 100 weddings a year.

According to Ha'aretz, Religious Affairs Ministry regulations forbid rabbis from charging for performing weddings, since a fee paid to the religious council includes the services of a rabbi. However Yanovsky said that if a couple wants a particular

rabbi, instead of one assigned by the religious council, it may choose any rabbi acceptable to the local marriage registrar and such a rabbi may receive a fee.

Yanovsky also said that both the sums Lau allegedly received and the number of marriages he performed were exaggerated.

Yanovsky added that Lau has never demanded payment from any couple he married. He added that the payments are recorded by Lau's accountant.

According to Ha'aretz, Lau would not say whether he had reported the payments

to the income tax authorities. Following the report, MK Ofer Pines (Labor) asked State Attorney Edna Arbel to investigate whether Lau's alleged failure to report this income violates the law.

Pines said that he had tried to hold a meeting of the Knesset subcommittee on taxes on the issue of rabbis who do not report income from weddings, but that he was prevented from doing so by MK Avraham Ravitz (Degel Hatorah). Pines added that phenomenon is widespread, causing huge losses to the Treasury.

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Haredi MKs threaten coalition over conversion bill

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs from the haredi factions are threatening to pull out of the coalition unless the government starts pushing through legislation that would recognize only Orthodox conversions.

United Torah Judaism, Shas, and National Religious Party MKs yesterday met and decided to demand the prime minister bring up the conversion bill for the cabinet's approval at its meeting tomorrow. They said the Knesset must hear the first reading of the bill before the Pessah recess at the beginning of April, because the time the High Court gave it to decide the issue is running out.

They said the proposed Conversion Law is part of the coalition agreement. MK Shmuel Halpert (UTJ) warned that if the prime minister does not stand by his commitment, this would bring down the coalition.

"We are not aware of our own strength," said Halpert, who heads the religious caucus. "We number 23 MKs in religious parties and there are also religious MKs in other factions who will be prepared to join us in struggles on religious issues. Without us there is no coalition," he said.

Coalition chairman Michael Eitan promised he would forward the request to the premier.

The Council for Freedom of Science, Religion, and Culture in Israel, yesterday issued a statement calling on Netanyahu "to be the prime minister of the Jewish people and not the representative of a forceful religious bloc that is pushing toward splitting the nation by means of nullifying any conversion that is not Orthodox."

The MKs also discussed the controversy over the proposed closing of the Ramat Aviv shopping mall on Shabbat.

AT THE KNESSET

Police detention limit to be 24 hours

By LIAT COLLINS

A new law on detentions will come into force in May which rules, among other things, that a person cannot be held for more than 24 hours without being brought before a judge, instead of the 48 hours under the current law. The legislation also calls for special arrangements to be in force during Shabbat and religious holidays. The Knesset Law Committee, chaired by Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), discussed the new law yesterday.

The committee determined that a person arrested more than 4 hours before the start of Shabbat or the holiday must be brought to court immediately. Someone arrested closer to the start of the holiday or Shabbat may wait until the following evening, but a senior police officer would have to sign the authorization for the delay.

A person arrested during Shabbat or a holiday must appear before a judge no later than four hours after it ends or within 24 hours of arrest.

The committee will meet next week with the heads of the court system and police chiefs to discuss the implementation of the law.

Kahalani: Palestinian offices may still be closed

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told the Knesset plenum yesterday that the matter of four Palestinian institutes in Jerusalem suspected of being affiliated to the Palestinian Authority is being investigated, and if they are not found to be in order, they will be closed. He was answering a motion to the agenda by Micha Goldman (Labor), who asked the minister how wise it was to announce they would be closed knowing that it would be problematic to implement the decision.

Meanwhile, MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher) has filed a police complaint against Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, saying it is violating the law by offering degree courses without the permission of the Council for Higher Education.

Ministry lacks budget to warn of gas danger

By JUDY SIEGEL

Criticism of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure for failing to promote public awareness of the dangers of gas heaters was sounded yesterday, following the death of two adults and a six-year-old girl in Jerusalem from gas poisoning on Tuesday.

Officials in the gas companies and rescue personnel said that the ministry should sponsor public service announcements on radio before and during the winter; require that warning stickers be affixed to all gas heating systems and space heaters; that rabbis be contacted to inform the haredi community via synagogues; and that households be encouraged to purchase carbon monoxide monitors.

Ministry Director-General Giora Rom declined to comment, but his spokesman, Ra'anah Gissin, said that the ministry is unable to do more because its public information budget had been cut.

Tzippora Brand, six, a haredi girl living in the Sanhedria quarter of Jerusalem, died when a gas heater in a closed balcony attached to the bathroom leaked carbon-monoxide (CO) gas which is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Her father, who was in a nearby room and did not suspect anything wrong, found her dead.

In the Gilo neighborhood, the bodies of a couple in their 50s were found in their apartment after they did not arrive at work for two days. They died from a CO leak from their gas heater.

STOP THE BULLDOZERS!

- They threaten the fragile peace.
- They endanger our security.
- They build for one sector of Jerusalem's population at the expense of the other.

Join us in a demonstration near Har Homa:

Date: Friday, March 21 Time: 12:30 Place: Busses From Liberty Bell Park for Details 02-5660648

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WEATHER

Golan 9-11

Haifa 10-20 Tiberias 8-20

Afula 7-18

Sameria 5-14

Tel Aviv 9-19

Jerusalem 5-13

Beersheba 7-20

Dead Sea 0-25

Elit 11-24

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	F	C	WIND	WIND
Amsterdam	06	43	07	45	cloudy
Berlin	06	43	07	45	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	64	18	79	clear
Cairo	08	46	18	69	clear
Chicago	05	23	03	27	cloudy
Copenhagen	01	30	03	27	cloudy
Geneva	08	46	11	52	rain
Helsinki	08	46	11	52	rain
Hong Kong	19	66	24	76	cloudy
Jerusalem	05	21	07	28	cloudy
Johannesburg	13	55	21	70	cloudy
London	08	46	12	54	cloudy
Los Angeles	13	55	21	70	clear
Madrid	07	45	12	54	clear
Moscow	12	54	02	28	clear
Montreal	07	45	08	48	cloudy
New York	02	28	03	27	cloudy
Paris	08	46	11	52	cloudy
Rome	08	46	11	52	cloudy
Stockholm	10	50	12	54	clear
Tel Aviv	09	48	15	59	cloudy
Toronto	05	23	03	27	cloudy
Vancouver	01	30	03	27	cloudy
Zurich	08	46	11	52	rain

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance drawing were the 10 of clubs, 7 of hearts, king of diamond, and queen of spades.

هكزامن الأجل